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"For The Buckeye Fan Who Needs To Know More"

September 21, 2002



PREPARE TO BE BOWLED OVER — Ohio State freshman running back Maurice Clarett (13) has Washington State's Erik Coleman in his sights as he tries to get more yardage out of one of his long runs.

The Franchise Punishes WSU

Tressel Likens Clarett To Byars After Freshman Tramples Cougars

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

What do you get for the true freshman who has almost 500 rushing yards in his team's first three games?

Well, a nickname might be a good start.

"When I came back into the locker room, they were calling me The Franchise," OSU freshman tailback Maurice Clarett said after his latest explosion at Ohio Stadium.

Clarett battered Washington State into submission, carrying 31 times for 230 yards and two touchdowns as the sixth-ranked Buckeyes stopped the 10th-rated Cougars 25-7 Sept. 14.

In the days leading up to the Washington State game, Clarett was quoted in an ESPN.com article as saying, "I'm playing for the guy who works 9 to 5 every day so he can pay \$50 to watch us play. I want him to get his money's worth — to leave the stadium thinking, 'That was one of the best football players I've ever seen.'"

After punishing would-be Cougars tacklers most of the day, Clarett was asked if he had succeeded in achieving that goal.

"I think so," he said. "Some people work all week. All they have to look forward to is the Buckeyes game. Then they come out here and some of them have the worst seats in the house — Section ZZ, Seat 99. Basically, all they can see is the top of our helmets."

"But they came to see a good game just like the people in the good seats. I try to give people their money's worth. I try and work hard for every fan in the stadium."

Clarett, at 6-0 and 230 pounds, is certainly the working man's tailback with the way he takes on defenders.

"One thing that I think about Maurice Clarett is I think a little bit like when we had Keith Byars here, he wore on people," said OSU coach Jim Tressel. "In that first quarter you might get him down for 2 (yards) and then in the second quarter you might get him down for 3. In the third quarter you couldn't get him down. He's

that kind of guy."

Clarett, last year's USA Today national high school offensive player of the year and Ohio Mr. Football award winner at Warren (Ohio) Harding, burst on the scene at OSU with 175 yards and three touchdowns in the season-opening win over Texas Tech.

He was all smiles that day as he helped senior defensive end Kenny Peterson lug the Pigskin Classic trophy up the ramp to the locker room.

But those smiles turned to scowls two weeks later when he amassed just 64 yards, scored twice and lost a fumble in OSU's rout of Kent State.

With the showdown with Washington State looming, many believed Tressel would rely on Clarett and the running game to soften up the Cougars.

Those predictions were correct as Clarett ended the day with the sixth-highest single-game rushing total in school history (see graphic, page 12). His yardage total trails only Archie Griffin's 239-yard game against North Carolina in 1972 for OSU true freshmen (see graphic and story, page 34).

"Maurice believes in our offensive line," Tressel said. "He is a great football player. I thought our offensive line did a good job against a very good defensive front."

Through games played Sept. 14, Clarett ranked third nationally in rushing yards per game. He had 471 yards on 63 carries, an average of 157 yards per contest. That trailed only Kent State quarterback Joshua Cribbs (164 yards per game) and Southern Miss' Derrick Nix (158).

As the season began, Clarett was viewed to be in a platoon at tailback with sophomores Lydell Ross and Maurice Hall. But if this game against a quality opponent is any indication, OSU will give Clarett most of the meaningful carries with Ross and Hall providing a change of pace and relief efforts.

"I think Lydell and Maurice come in and give a good tempo change, and they have upsides in their own right."

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Ben Hartsock

COVER STORY: THE FRANCHISE PUNISHES WSU

Tressel Is No Stranger To The Claret Magic

Continued From Page 1

Tressel said. "We need to be deep at every position if we want to become the team that we have our sights set on."

"We've got good backs. We need to have good backs. I mean, I saw Lydell Ross make a big play that helped our football team. Maurice Hall has made big plays. You know, Maurice Claret, I felt, was the right guy to go just like we say at quarterback Craig Krenzle in my mind is the right guy to go, and on down through the rest of the positions."

"Now we're going to go on the road against a good football team, then we're going to start the Big Ten. We're going to need Maurice Claret to be as good as he can, and he will work that way in practice and become that. But we also need those other guys to keep getting better. We're going to need that."

More Than Meets The Eye

During his time as the Youngstown State head coach, Tressel said he recalled going to see Claret play on local high school fields in the Mahoning Valley.

"I've been watching him for so long," Tressel said. "I see the same guy who was down at Austintown Fitch as a ninth-grader or at Warren Harding or wherever. He's a guy that loves to play the game. I see the same guy that practices. He practices just like he plays. He just goes after it."

"You appreciate that about him. I'm sure he planted the questions (by the media) about getting more carries because he'd like to have the ball every play. If it was up to him we'd be in that Jumbo formation every play."

OSU running backs coach Tim Spencer, himself a former OSU tailback great, was asked how Claret compares to his prized pupil, 1995



PROMISED LAND GREETINGS — Ohio State quarterback Craig Krenzle (top) congratulates running back Maurice Claret after Claret scored one of his two touchdowns on the afternoon.

Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George.

"He reminds me of Eddie when it comes to the work ethic," Spencer said. "He comes to work every day. He has upped the level of play in the running backs and that hasn't been there since Eddie. He kicks it up a notch and when the young guys see that out there they respect that."

OSU linebacker Matt Wilhelm said it's good to have a guy like Claret on his side.

"He works hard from Sunday to Friday to get better every week," he said. "Everything he gets he deserves. I take him for granted. We had a three-headed monster at tailback, but I think one of them rose to the top."

"We know Maurice is going to go out there and break tackles. That's all you can ask for out of a back."

Krenzle said he is impressed with the way Claret, who enrolled early at OSU last winter, has picked up the offense so quickly.

"Maurice's biggest attribute is he knows what's going on," Krenzle said. "Any guy can take a handoff and run with the ball. But the thing that sets him apart from any other freshman is the way he came in and picked things up."

OSU offensive coordinator Jim Bollman came to the Buckeyes last year after coaching stints in the NFL

OSU 200-Yard Rushing Games

Here is a look at the 14 games in OSU history where a player has rushed for 200 or more yards.

Player	Opponent, Date	Score	Att.	Yds.	TDs
Eddie George	Illinois, Nov. 11, 1995	W, 41-3	36	314	2
Keith Byars	Illinois, Oct. 13, 1984	W, 45-38	39	274	5
Archie Griffin	Iowa, Nov. 17, 1973	W, 55-13	30	246	1
Archie Griffin	North Carolina, Sept. 30, 1972	W, 29-14	27	239	1
Raymont Harris	BYU, Dec. 30, 1993	W, 28-21	39	235	3
Maurice Claret	Washington State, Sept. 14, 2002	W, 25-7	31	230	2
Ollie Cline	Pittsburgh, Nov. 10, 1945	W, 14-0	33	229	1
Calvin Murray	Indiana, Oct. 18, 1980	W, 27-17	35	224	2
Eddie George	Michigan State, Oct. 15, 1994	W, 23-7	29	219	1
Eddie George	Washington, Sept. 16, 1995	W, 30-20	36	212	2
Michael Wiley	Missouri, Sept. 19, 1998	W, 35-14	24	209	2
Loren White	Iowa, Nov. 15, 1958	W, 38-28	33	209	3
Eddie George	Notre Dame, Sept. 30, 1995	W, 45-26	32	207	2
Eddie George	Northwestern, Oct. 1, 1994	W, 17-15	39	206	1

with Philadelphia and Chicago. When he heaps praise on a college player, it is usually well deserved.

"He's a good player," Bollman said. "There's nothing I can't say about him. He's really strong, really fast and he has good hands. He maybe needs to learn to be a better blocker and I know he will. But he knows who he is supposed to block."

Fuming Over The Fumble

Claret met with reporters only briefly following the Kent State game. It was apparent something was bothering him.

"I was mad because I fumbled last week," Claret explained. "It's a privilege to carry the ball for Ohio State. You've got 100,000 people depending on you every time you carry the ball."

Speaking at his Sept. 10 luncheon, Tressel said he understood why Claret was bothered by the fumble.

"I worry more about people who don't care," Tressel said. "Maurice is someone who cares an extraordinary amount. Maurice has some amazing standards on what he wants to be and he has some amazing standards about what he wants this team to be."

"I'm sure he didn't feel good about the fumble. Beyond that, I don't know anything else. I know from when I threw an interception, I know how I felt. You're the right guy to have on the team if you're miserable about it. I have a feeling Maurice was miserable about that."

Doing It All

Ohio State trailed Washington State 7-6 at halftime. The Buckeyes needed a spark to start the second half and Claret, who would go on to pick up 194 of his yards on 20 second-half carries, provided the ignition on OSU's first possession.

Here are three of his highlight-reel runs from that drive.

• The Buckeyes were backed up on

their own 9-yard line after a punt. On first down there, Claret took a handoff left, cut off a block by pulling guard Bryce Bishop and turned the corner for a 44-yard gain. WSU's Erik Coleman had a slight angle on Claret and saved the touchdown by collaring him from behind.

"The run he broke there was a double down off-tackle," Spencer said. "He just bounced it outside and took it around the corner."

• Facing first down at the WSU 23, the Buckeyes ran a similar play to the opposite side. This time left guard Mike Stafford pulled back and blocked the frontside linebacker. WSU's Coleman attempted to make a diving stop as teammate Jason David came up to try to clean up the play.

But Claret lowered his head, put a shoulder into David and bounced off him — while also eluding Coleman. He was able to continue for a few more yards before being shoved out of bounds at the WSU 3.

• On the very next play from the WSU 3, OSU went with a Jumbo formation with an extra lineman. Then the Buckeyes pulled Stafford back to the right as well. Fullback Brandon Schnitker tried to provide some blocking for Claret. There did not appear to be much of a hole, but Claret put his head down and bulled ahead for the touchdown that gave the Buckeyes the lead for good.

In this one critical possession, Claret had shown his speed, resiliency and power.

"He's a guy who really tries to do everything," Bollman said. "He tries to help everybody. He's not afraid of it. He doesn't back off."

All of this brings us back to just how the masses should refer to Claret. In addition to "The Franchise," other nicknames making the rounds include "Triple Threat Claret," "Maurice The Beast" and "The Truth."

No freshman has ever done this before but if he isn't careful, the words "Heisman Trophy winner" could apply.

Claret deflected the notion he is already a candidate for the college game's highest individual honor.

"I'm just taking it game by game," he said. "I'm not after any individual award or individual attention. I'm just worried about Cincinnati right now. I'm not worried about any awards."



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OHIO STATE VS. WASHINGTON STATE

Bucks Run, Run, Run Away With It

OSU Rushing Attack Much Too Much For WSU

By STEVE HELWAGEN
Buckeye Sports Bulletin Editor

It is not very often that a 12-point third quarter would be labeled an explosion. But in a tight, defensive battle, that kind of period can sometimes mean the world.

Trailing 7-6 at halftime, sixth-ranked Ohio State got a touchdown, a field goal and a safety in the pivotal third quarter and cruised to a 25-7 win over 10th-ranked Washington State before an Ohio Stadium-record crowd of 104,553 Sept. 14.

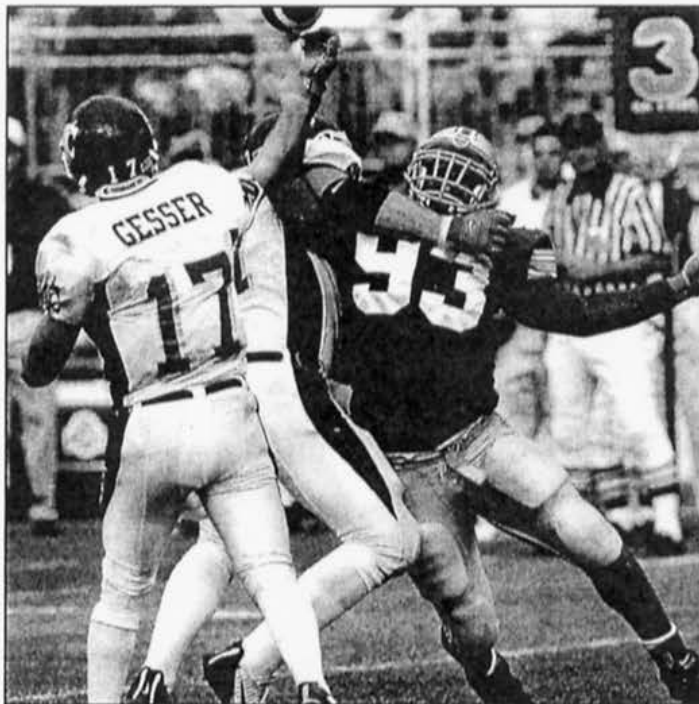
"We were down 7-6 at halftime, but we were playing a good team," said OSU coach Jim Tressel, whose team improved to 3-0. "We had not been in that situation a lot and we have a lot of young people playing for us."

"I thought the older guys did a good job working with the younger guys and letting them know what we needed. The crowd also did a good job. It was just a great game."

The Buckeyes rode the hard running of tailback Maurice Clarett and an inspired defensive effort to the victory.

Clarett ended up with 230 yards and two touchdowns on 31 carries for the Buckeyes. His yardage total stands as the sixth-highest single-game mark in school history and the second most by an OSU freshman (see cover story).

"The big players make the big plays



HELD BACK — Ohio State defensive end Will Smith (93) is tied up by a Washington State lineman as quarterback Jason Gesser attempts a pass.

in the big game," Clarett said.

Clarett fueled OSU's second-half emergence. He had 194 of his yards in the second half. OSU outgained WSU 254-91 and held the ball for just over 20

minutes in the second half.

"The defense picked us up today by playing tremendous," said OSU quarterback Craig Krenzel, who attempted just 10 passes, completing four of them for 71 yards.

"The most important thing we showed today was that even when the momentum was not in our favor and we weren't playing well, we stayed together,

played tough, and we came back out and went after them in the second half," he said.

The defense allowed WSU (2-1) to score on its first possession but withstood a strong passing onslaught the rest of the way.

"We had an opportunity to play in a big arena, the big show, and we didn't get it done," said WSU coach Mike Price. "It's just as simple as that."

"In the second half, we had some opportunities to score touchdowns and didn't take advantage of them. We left our defense on the field too long, and their running game was too dominant."

WSU quarterback Jason Gesser, a Heisman hopeful, ended up 25 of 47 passing for 247 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions.

"It comes down to execution," Gesser said. "I didn't hit the hot reads when I was supposed to. I was looking for bigger things and didn't get them. I have to hit the hot reads when they blitz."

"I take full blame for this game. We had chances down there in the red zone. When we get down there, we have to put points on the board and we weren't able to do that today."

The Buckeyes sacked the elusive Gesser just twice. But the strong overall effort helped OSU contain the Cougars.

"Everybody had a job to do," said OSU defensive end Will Smith. "Everybody went out and did their job well. We felt in the first half we didn't stop them the way we wanted to stop them. We got into the locker room, talked it over and did a much better job in the second half."

"I believe we made a statement," added OSU defensive end Darrien Scott, who notched one of the sacks with a brutal hit on Gesser. "They have a pretty good offensive line. For us to come out and hold that team to seven points is pretty good. They have a highly explosive offense. What more can we do than that?"

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As It Happened

OSU had the ball to open the game, and on the first play from scrimmage, Krenzel faked and threw a deep out to split end Michael Jenkins for a 33-yard gain down to the WSU 32.

But a false start penalty stunted the possession and, after Krenzel found Chris Gamble for an 8-yard gain down to the 26, the Buckeyes had to settle for Mike Nugent's 43-yard field goal and a 3-0 lead with 13:19 left in the first quarter.

Washington State answered with an 11-play, 80-yard scoring march. Gesser connected on 5 of 6 passes on the drive, converting a pair of third downs on a 10-yard pass to Scott Lunde and a 39-yard screen to Cole Sheridan down to the OSU 5. On third-and-goal, Gesser dropped and threw a fade to Devard Darling over OSU corner Richard McNutt. The play put WSU up 7-3 with 8:33 left in the first quarter.

The Cougars were in business on their next possession, driving down to the OSU 38. But WSU went for it on fourth-and-6 and Gesser, under heavy pressure by OSU's Kenny Peterson, threw incomplete.

OSU used an eight-play, 45-yard possession to trim the lead to 7-6. The key play was a 36-yard run by Lydell Ross on his first carry of the game. Working out of a split backfield with Clarett, Ross used a big block by Clarett on the frontside line-backer to rip off his big run down to the WSU 19.

But another OSU false start, followed by a sack of Krenzel, forced the Buckeyes to again settle for a Nugent field goal, again a 43-yarder, with 12:09 left in the second quarter.

The Cougars again threatened late in the half, moving 68 yards in 13 plays down to the OSU 12. But on fourth-and-goal there, a bad field-goal snap hit holder Collin Henderson in the helmet and the Buckeyes took possession.

"We had a chance to go ahead maybe 14-6," Price said. "But we have to kick it instead. Then it looked like we snapped the ball before the holder was ready. He is supposed to wait until the holder puts his hand up."

The Cougars had the ball to open the second half and picked up 27 yards before the Buckeyes forced a punt.

OSU took over on its own 9 and moved 91 yards in an efficient eight plays to grab the lead. On the first play, Clarett went left behind a block from guard Bryce Bishop and rolled for a 44-yard gain. WSU defensive back Erik Coleman had an angle on Clarett and pulled him down from behind. Otherwise he would have been gone for the long touchdown.

"I knew I was going to get caught so I just kept on running," Clarett said.

Krenzel then found Chris Vance for a 14-yard pickup. Krenzel converted a third down with a 6-yard run down to the WSU 23.

On first down, Clarett went right and bounced off a pair of WSU defenders on his way to a 20-yard scamper down the sideline. On the next play, he powered in for the 3-yard touchdown behind right tackle, giving the Buckeyes a 13-7 lead with 8:37 left in the third quarter.

Things went from bad to worse for WSU as Gesser was intercepted by OSU's Matt Wilhelm on his next pass attempt. Wilhelm stepped in front of a pass intended for Darling and tipped it to himself for the pick.

The Buckeyes could not convert that miscue into points but scored on their next possession as Nugent drilled a 44-yard field goal to make it 16-7 with 1:57 left in

the third.

Disaster then struck one more time on WSU, which was pushed back on its ensuing possession by a holding penalty. A fourth-down punt snap by Troy Bienemann sailed over punter Kyle Basler's head and out of the end zone for a safety, extending the OSU advantage to 18-7 with 47 seconds left in the third quarter.

The Buckeyes got possession after the free kick and rolled 66 yards in 10 plays to their final touchdown. Clarett was the workhorse, carrying seven times for 36 yards.

Krenzel set up the touchdown, however, with his 29-yard scamper down to the WSU 1. On first-and-goal there, Clarett scored standing up behind right tackle, pushing the OSU lead to 25-7 with 10:41 left in the game.

Washington State enjoyed its best

offensive push of the second half, going 66 yards in 13 plays. But Gesser's fourth-down pass was intercepted by OSU freshman Tyler Everett at the OSU 4 with 7:10 left.

"We were in man coverage," Everett said. "I was supposed to switch, but I went with the guy who was in motion. Then I saw (Darling) cross my face. I knew there wasn't a safety in the middle of the field so I had to get back there and make the play. The quarterback threw it up and I just jumped up and grabbed it."

The Buckeyes succeeded in running out the final 7:10 on offense in a 12-play possession.

Game Notes

- OSU improved to 8-0 all-time against Washington State, including 7-0 in Columbus.

- This was OSU's first home win over a

top-10 team since a 28-9 victory over No. 7 Penn State on Oct. 3, 1998. OSU was ranked No. 1 at the time.

This also was OSU's first home win over a top-10 ranked nonconference team since a 36-33 win over No. 7 LSU in 1988. The Buckeyes were not ranked for that game.

The Buckeyes are now 22-22-4 all-time against top-10 teams at home, including 4-5-1 against nonconference top-10 opponents at home.

OSU is now 59-43-8 all-time against top-10 opponents. OSU's record against top-25 ranked opponents improved to 98-94-12.

- Tressell's record at OSU improved to 10-5 and his career mark stands at 145-62-2.

- The crowd total eclipsed the previous record of 104,407 set last year against Illinois.

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OHIO STATE VS. WASHINGTON STATE

Prolific Ground Numbers Recall Days Of Yore

Continued From Page 16

Dantonio felt it was just a matter of time before the true athletes rose to the top.

"It felt like we were playing OK but we needed to settle down," he said. "We made a couple of adjustments at halftime, but really it's all just players playing."

Even with the substandard play, the defense took a few things to heart at halftime.

"We knew we played a bad first half and we were down one point to a good team," Wilhelm said. "We knew if we played Ohio State football, we would come out and prosper."

Notice To Defenses: We're Running

Ohio State fans who look back at the glory days of the Woody Hayes era talk with pride about the OSU running game back then. Today when the play calling is handoff, handoff, handoff the coach often is stamped as too stubborn or unimaginative. Boos tend to cascade down from the stands.

Yet there were the Buckeyes in a very big game with Washington State Sept. 14 in Ohio Stadium and none of the record crowd of 104,553 seemed to mind that OSU ran 64 plays and ran on 54 of them.

Maybe it was because the big, bad Buckeyes of the Big Ten showed their Pac-10 counterparts what Midwestern football is all about. More likely it was because

freshman sensation Maurice Clarett can make even the most basic straight-ahead rushing play exciting with his leg-churning, tackle-breaking style. Or maybe it's that head coach Jim Tressel is showing that you still can beat a good team with a game plan straight out of Bedrock.

Former OSU quarterback and ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit said the key to the game would be OSU's passing game against the Cougars' press-up defense that would dare OSU to throw. Tressel also hinted at as much earlier in the week, talking often about his passing attack and how the game likely would go down to the ball being in the air and someone making a play.

When WSU came out with nine men jammed up to the line, the Buckeyes threw on their very first offensive play, a 33-yard connection between quarterback Craig Krenzel and wideout Mike Jenkins. The Buckeyes threw two more times — and were set up to throw another play that was wiped out by a motion penalty — in the midst of a drive that led to a quick 3-0 lead.

But Tressel and offensive coordinator Jim Bollman refused to get caught up in a shooting match. They pounded the running game for a total of 292 rushing yards, 230 of them thanks to Clarett. Stubborn or not, it worked, even after OSU trailed 7-6 at halftime.

"Number one, I'm very thankful that we were able to get a win and that we can come back and learn, because we ought to be able to learn a lot from this game,"



JEFF BREHM

LONE GRAB — Ohio State receiver Chris Vance (4) made his first catch of the season — a 14-yarder that was his only one of the game — in the third quarter.

Bollman said.

"I think that we would have liked to have run the ball like that in the first half, but we never really got in sync and got a chance to do it. Maurice had some great runs in the second half and we got more in sync and didn't run some of the same pro-

tections on our passes."

Krenzel said the Buckeyes stuck to their intentions even when things weren't clicking.

"We came out in the first half and we were trying to smash it at them," he said. "That was our game plan. We were trying to out-physical them. But we did some things that were kind of disruptive in the first half."

In disappointments of recent years, the Buckeyes have been criticized for being a poor adjustment team. Against WSU, it was the opposite.

"We might have been at each other's throats in the locker room at halftime in years past," tight end Ben Hartssock said. "That we were able to calmly figure what to do spoke to me about our team."

Instead of scrapping plans to run, the Buckeyes simply talked about blocking assignments and being more attuned to the play. That they were able to stay on the ground and grind out a good team may speak volumes to the Wisconsin and Michigan out there who no doubt will be hell-bent on slowing down the run game in future weeks.

"I think we're going to see that type of defensive look a lot this season," Krenzel said.

"We're going to see safeties in the box, eight or nine guys in the box trying to stop our run game because everyone knows we're a power-run football team."

But against Washington State, at least, the Buckeyes were able to impose their will on their opponent. Best of all, the Cougars

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OHIO STATE VS. WASHINGTON STATE

looked wrong out at the end of the game.

"Before the drive where we finished the game out, we got out there and I think Maurice had another long run to get a first down right off the get-go," Hartsock recalled. "I think then they really were getting tired and everybody kind of noticed it then."

"It's exciting for us to have that feeling, that, 'Hey, we've really got these guys. We're still going. We're strong,' and they were over there sucking wind."

Added Bollman, "I'm sure that was kind of disheartening to them."

Clarett Leaves Teammates In Awe

Clarett continued to come into the national picture with his outstanding day (31 carries, 230 yards, 7.4 per carry, two touchdowns). In the meantime he opened more eyes on his own team.

"What do you want me to say? Unbelievable," Bollman said. "Give him the ball and run out of the way. He put it in his mind he was going to gain some yards, didn't he?"

"He does some amazing things with the ball. He does some amazing things getting in the open and then when he's not in the open he does some amazing things dragging people with him."

Krenzel has had the best view of anyone in watching Clarett become a star.

"Maurice is a great player," he said. "He's very patient. He waits for the holes. Once he sees the hole he cuts up. He's very aggressive, he's fast, he can make a big play as you saw today. He's a great football player. But he'll probably be the first one to tell you he can't take all the credit."

The offensive line and blockers were suspect going in but now are getting credit on highlight plays where Clarett gains big yardage. That, of course, just increases the confidence of both factions.

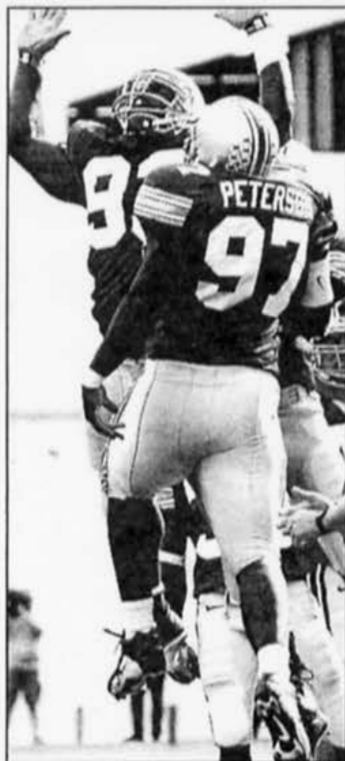
"He makes it easy for us to block for him and we make it easy for him to run the ball," Hartsock said. "Whenever we can give him just a little crease he can get through and break a tackle here and there, and that's where that chemistry is starting to develop and we're really starting to be successful."

"He had some great individual efforts, but we did let him get into the secondary and get past that level and get himself into position to do well."

Krenzel Stays In Background

The Buckeyes didn't have a passing play the rest of the day to match the success of the one that opened the game. Krenzel, in fact, completed just three other tosses, finishing a modest 4 of 10 for 71 yards and suffering four sacks. But for the third straight game this season he did not throw an interception and had a big hand in the offense's effectiveness by leading and checking into the right plays.

As for the lost yardage, Krenzel often



CONSTANT PRESSURE — Though he often got the ball away, WSU quarterback Jason Gesser felt the heat all day from Buckeyes such as Will Smith (back) and Kenny Peterson.

didn't have a chance to escape as the pocket collapsed quickly.

"A lot of things that Craig didn't do in the first half, they weren't all his fault," Bollman said. "It was ridiculous pass protection. How would you like to be a quarterback back there with that? That was awful."

Krenzel was disappointed in the lack of balance but apologized for nothing after a 25-7 win.

"We know we're going to have to make plays against that type of defense with the passing game," said the junior signal caller. "We made some good plays early but we didn't make enough."

Some players such as Hartsock believed the swirling wind had something to do with that. Krenzel, for example, recognized Chris Vance open behind the defense on one scramble play but couldn't keep his toss in bounds when the wind grabbed it.

"That made it a tough environment to throw in," Hartsock said.

"But I think that this offense has the

ability to show many different faces, and I think we'll see that in the future because we as a team are not concerned with our offense's ability to pass the ball."

While the passing game develops, Krenzel continues to show he's a threat on the ground. He's done a good job all season of sensing pressure and moving up in the pocket. He's also had some big runs reminiscent of his athletic predecessor, Steve Bellisari.

Tressel, in fact, said the offense had a pregame goal of Krenzel netting 50 rushing yards. He netted just 19 but that's due mostly to 26 minus yards on sacks.

On OSU's first TD drive of the day in the third quarter, Krenzel kept the chains moving with a nifty 6-yard run on third-and-4.

"It's just instinct," he said. "Anytime you go into dropback passing, there's always the option to run if they forget about the quarterback or if the pressure comes so heavy from one side."

"On the third down we tried to get them on a little play-action because we had been smashing at them. We were hoping they would try to bring everybody up and get tight and bite on the fake. They did a good job covering it but they left the left side open, and I just tried to get to the first down."

Krenzel's most memorable run of his career then followed on the first drive of the fourth quarter, which sealed the game. On second-and-12 from the Washington State 30, he ran around the left side on a keeper and nearly scored on a 29-yard blast.

"It wasn't called, actually," Krenzel said. "Myself and Mike Jenkins were the only two that knew it. We ran that play a couple times and they had stuffed us running the power off to the tight end side. After I handed the ball off, I'd wash out to the left like we're supposed to do."

"I told Coach Tressel and (coach Tim) Spencer that they really weren't paying attention to the back side so don't be surprised if I just kept one, and Coach Tressel said, 'Hey, if it's there you do whatever.' I told Mike, 'Find me if I've got the ball and throw a good block for me,' which he did."

"On that play they had their eyes inside on the back because we were smashing

them hard, and I just pulled the ball to the outside."

Little Leftovers

• Becoming more of a team seemed to be the magic formula for second-half success.

"We decided that don't think one guy has to do it all," Doss said. "We needed to play as 11 guys. We had to run to the ball and swarm."

• Folks were wondering if playing a top-10 team would finally get the measure of Ohio State.

Washington State has been a solid road team the last couple of seasons and didn't appear intimidated by the Buckeyes.

With an offense that averaged over 30 points per game last year and was up over 40 per game this season, the single-digit total for WSU was a bit surprising.

"There were a lot of questions and we went out there today and really proved ourselves," Wilhelm said.

"We faced some adversity and a year ago I think we might have let some touchdowns happen in the red zone," Grant said. "We kept fighting and knew our offense would get the job done."

• Washington State usually has decent balance offensively but managed just 17 yards rushing on 22 attempts.

"We did a good job making sure they couldn't run," Tressel said. "They hit a couple of draws on us in the first two series which we got cleaned up. Our defense dominated from that point on."

• Left tackle Ivan Douglas was guilty of a couple of illegal motion penalties on key short-yardage plays, but Bollman did not place blame on his left tackle.

"We had some problems we caused ourselves. We had some offside where we couldn't hear," Bollman said. "I mean, we had a critical third-and-2 where we had a chance to get the first down, and all the rest of the game when we were in that formation we ran the ball very well out of it. But the first time we ran it we couldn't hear."

"I mean, the crowd was great, the crowd was excited, but we couldn't hear."

• The safety OSU was credited with in the third quarter — when WSU long snapper Troy Bienemann snapped the ball out of the end zone — was OSU's first since the Michigan game last season.



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The Numbers Game

Ohio State 25, Washington State 7

Sept. 14, 2002 — Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	F
WASHINGTON STATE	7	0	0	0	- 7
OHIO STATE	3	3	12	7	- 25

First Quarter

OSU — Nugent, 43 yard field goal, 13:19; 5 plays, 39 yards, 1:41 TOP.

WSU — Darling, 5 yard pass from Gesser (Dunning kick), 8:33; 11 plays, 80 yards, 4:36 TOP.

Second Quarter

OSU — Nugent, 43 yard field goal, 12:09; 8 plays, 45 yards, 3:54 TOP.

Third Quarter

OSU — Claret, 3 yard run (Nugent kick), 8:37; 8 plays, 91 yards, 2:51 TOP.

OSU — Nugent, 45 yard field goal, 1:57; 6 plays, 16 yards, 3:32 TOP.

OSU — Safety, WSU's Bienemann snapped ball out of end zone, 0:47.

Fourth Quarter

OSU — Claret, 1 yard run (Nugent kick), 10:41; 10 plays, 66 yards, 4:58 TOP.

Att. — 104,553 (stadium record)

Weather — 85 degrees, partly cloudy; wind 15 MPH from SW.

Team Statistics

	WSU	OSU
First Downs	15	16
Rushing	2	13
Passing	13	3
Penalty	0	0
Rushes-Yards	22-17	54-292
Passing Yards	263	71
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	45-26-2	10-4-0
Offensive Plays	67	64
Total Net Yards	280	363
Third Down Efficiency	8-17	3-13
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-4	1-2
Punts	5-41.4	5-40.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties	3-29	4-20
Time of Possession	25:56	34:04

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — WSU: Tippins 8-35; J.Smith 6-12; J.Green 3-0; Gesser 3-(-5); Team 2-(-25). OSU: Claret 31-230; Ross 10-46; Krenzel 8-19; M.Hall 3-1; Team 2-(-4).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — WSU: Gesser 44-25-2-247-1; Henderson 1-1-0-16-0. OSU: Krenzel 10-4-0-71-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — WSU: Lunde 8-64; Darling 6-65; Bush 6-63; J.Smith 2-38; Henderson 2-23; Tippins 1-5; J.Green 1-5. OSU: Jenkins 2-49; Vance 1-14; Gamble 1-8.

PUNTING (No.-Avg.-Long) — WSU: Basler 5-41.4-50. OSU: Groom 5-40.8-46.

PUNT RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — WSU: Trufant 2-21. OSU: Gamble 1-12; Doss 1-(-1).

KICKOFF RETURNS (No.-Yds.) — WSU: Darling 1-12. OSU: M.Hall 1-18.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES — WSU: None. OSU: None.

INTERCEPTIONS (No.-Yds.) — WSU: None. OSU: Wilhelm 1-0; Everett 1-0.

SACKS — WSU: M.Davis 1-11; Acholonu 1-6; I.Brown 1-2; Long 0-5.4; Jer.Williams 0-5.3. OSU: Scott 1-5; Peterson 1-4.

TACKLES FOR LOSS (No.-Yds.) — WSU: M.Davis 2-14; Long 2-8; Acholonu 2-7; Jer.Williams 1-3; I.Brown 1-2; I.Davis 1-2; Coleman 1-1; Cook 1-1; Kongaika 1-1; V.Williams 1-1. OSU: Grant 3-4; Scott 1-5; Peterson 1-4; Wilhelm 1-2; Fraser 1-1; Reynolds 1-1; W.Smith 1-1.

TACKLES (Solo-Assist-Tot.) — WSU: V.Williams 9-1-10; Coleman 3-6-9; Long 4-3-7; M.Davis 4-2-6; Kongaika 3-3-6; Trufant 5-0-5; Genatone 2-2-4; I.Davis 2-1-3; Acholonu 1-2-3; Cook 2-0-2; I.Brown 2-0-2; David 2-0-2; Jer.Williams 1-1-2; Sperry 1-1-2; Teems 0-2-2; Shavies 0-2-2; Team 1-0-1; Bennett 0-1-1; Hunt 0-1-1. OSU: Grant 6-2-8; Nicky 6-1-7; Wilhelm 5-0-5; Fox 4-1-5; W.Smith 4-0-4; Reynolds 1-3-4; Underwood 3-0-3; Everett 2-1-3; Doss 2-1-3; Peterson 2-0-2; McNutt 1-1-2; Bond 1-1-2; Thompson 1-0-1; Scott 1-0-1; Carpenter 0-1-1; Hawk 0-1-1; Fraser 0-1-1.

PLAYERS IN THE GAME — WASHINGTON STATE: Starters: Defense, I.Brown, Jer.Williams, Long, Shavies, Genatone, Sperry, I.Davis, Trufant, V.Williams, Coleman, David, Basler, Offense, Bush, Parrish, Locker, Hunt, Roche, Armstrong, Bienemann, Gesser, Tippins, Darling, Henderson, Dunning. Reserves: M.Martin, Acholonu, J.Smith, Siderius, Holiday, D.Jackson, Paymah, S.Moore, Teems, Sheridan, Bohannon, Abdullah, J.Green, W.Smith, Lunde, J.Miller, Joseph, Bennett, Kongaika, M.Davis, Knotts, Lightbody, A.West, Ostrander, Braidwood, Tupai, Cook. OSU: Starters: Offense, Jenkins, Douglas, Stafford, Stepanovich, Bishop, Oliva, Hartsock, Gamble, Krenzel, Joe, Claret, Nugent, Defense, W.Smith, Anderson, Peterson, Scott, Grant, Wilhelm, Reynolds, Fox, McNutt, Nicky, Doss, Groom. Reserves: Moore, Vance, D'Andrea, Conwell, Salley, Allen, M.Hall, Ross, Everett, Riley, O'Neill, Carpenter, Schnittker, Pagac, Hawk, Tucker, Underwood, Kudla, K.Andrews, Clarke, Fraser, Hamby, Caldwell, Bond, Thompson, D.Andrews.

Season Statistics

Date	Opponent (AP Rank)	Result	Crowd
Aug. 24	(13) TEXAS TECH	W, 45-21	100,037
Sept. 7	(8) KENT STATE	W, 51-17	98,689
Sept. 14	(6) WASHINGTON ST. (10)	W, 25-7	104,553
Sept. 21	(6) at Cincinnati	3:30 p.m.	
Sept. 28	INDIANA	12:10 p.m.	
Oct. 5	at Northwestern	7 p.m.	
Oct. 12	SAN JOSE STATE	12:10 p.m.	
Oct. 19	at Wisconsin	12:10 p.m.	
Oct. 26	PENN STATE	TBA	
Nov. 2	MINNESOTA	TBA	
Nov. 9	at Purdue	TBA	
Nov. 16	at Illinois	TBA	
Nov. 23	MICHIGAN	12:15 p.m.	

*OSU's gamified AP ranking is in parentheses before the opponent, while the opponent's ranking is after the name.

Team Statistics

	OSU	Opp
First Downs	57	54
Rushing	36	16
Passing	20	34
Penalty	1	4
Average Per Game/Rush	251.0	73.0
Average Per Game/Pass	166.3	263.7
Total Offense	1252	1010
Total Plays	185	211
Average Per Game	417.3	336.7
Average Per Play	6.8	4.8
Penalties-Yards	13-83	11-107
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-0
3rd Down Efficiency	14/33	21/49
Percentage	42%	43%
4th Down Efficiency	2/3	4/10
Percentage	67%	40%
Sacks-Yards	11-49	7-37
Time of Possession Avg.	30:16	29:44

Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4	Tot.	Avg.
Ohio State	38	27	32	24	121	40.3
Opponents	14	14	0	17	45	15.0

Attendance	Games	Total	Avg.
Home	3	303,279	101,093
Away	0	—	—
Total	3	303,279	101,093

	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Rushing					
Maurice Claret	63	471	7.5	6	59
Lydell Ross	30	114	3.8	2	36
Maurice Hall	19	111	5.8	1	28
Craig Krenzel	14	64	4.6	0	29
Jala Riley	2	3	1.5	0	3
Team	3	-5	-1.7	0	0
Scott McMullen	2	-5	-2.5	1	1
OSU Totals	133	763	5.7	10	59
OPP Totals	87	219	2.5	0	29

	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Long
Receiving					
Michael Jenkins	9	196	21.8	0	48
Chris Gamble	9	106	11.8	0	33
Maurice Claret	6	46	7.7	1	9
Drew Carter	3	43	14.3	0	26
Ryan Hamby	2	29	14.5	1	18
Maurice Hall	2	25	12.5	0	16
Brian Hartsock	2	18	9.0	0	10
Chris Vance	1	14	14.0	0	14
Bam Childress	1	14	14.0	0	14
Lydell Ross	1	8	8.0	0	8
OSU Totals	36	499	13.9	2	48
OPP Totals	69	791	11.5	6	39

Scoring	TD	EPK	EPR	EPP	FG	PTS
Maurice Claret	7	—	—	—	—	42
Mike Nugent	—	14-14	—	—	—	7-7
Lydell Ross	2	—	—	—	—	12
Scott McMullen	1	—	—	—	—	6
A.J. Hawk	1	—	—	—	—	6
Ryan Hamby	1	—	—	—	—	6

Mike Doss	1	—	—	—	—	6
Maurice Hall	1	—	—	—	—	6
Team	—	—	—	—	—	2
OSU Totals	14	14-14	—	—	—	7-7
OPP Totals	6	4-4	—	—	—	1-2

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Pct.	Yds.	INT	TD	Rating
Craig Krenzel	27	38	71.1	379	0	1	163.52
Scott McMullen	9	14	64.3	120	0	1	159.86
OSU Totals	36	52	69.2	499	0	2	162.53
OPP Totals	69	124	55.6	791	5	6	117.13

FG Distance	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Mike Nugent	0-0	1-1	6-6	0-0	7-7
OSU Totals	0-0	1-1	6-6	0-0	7-7
OPP Totals	0-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	1-2

Punting	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Bk	Long
Andy Groom	9	396	44.0	0	55
OSU Totals	9	396	44.0	0	55
OPP Totals	16	617	38.6	1	56

Interceptions	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Mike Doss	1	45	45.0	1	45
A.J. Hawk	1	34	34.0	1	34
Tyler Everett	1	0	0.0	0	0
Dustin Fox	1	0	0.0	0	0
Matt Wilhelm	1	0	0.0	0	0
OSU Totals	5	79	15.8	2	45
OPP Totals	0	0	0.0	0	0

Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Chris Gamble	4	61	15.2	0	27
Mike Doss	3	16	5.3	0	14
OSU Totals	7	77	11.0	0	27
OPP Totals	6	60	10.0	0	15

Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Long
Maurice Hall	5	109	21.8	0	32
Mike Doss	2	37	18.5	0	24
Chris Gamble	1	32	32.0	0	32
OSU Totals	8	178	22.2	0	32
OPP Totals	11	200	18.2	0	34

Defensive Leaders Solo	Ass.	Tot.	TFL	Yds.	Sacks
Matt Wilhelm	15	5	20	2-4	1-2
Cie Grant	14	4	18	5-21	2-17
Will Smith	14	4	18	6-13	2-7
Mike Doss	12	5	17	—	—
Donnie Nicky	12	4	16	—	—
Robert Reynolds	10	6	16	2-5	1-4
Dustin Fox	10	4	14	—	—
Kenny Peterson	9	4	13	2-9	2-9
Tim Anderson	8	3	11	1-3	1-3
Darrian Scott	8	3	11	3-9	2-7
Richard McNutt	6	5	11	—	—
Bobby Carpenter	5	4	9	—	—
E.J. Underwood	7	1	8	—	—
David Thompson	4	3	7	1-1	—
A.J. Hawk	2	5	7	—	—
Fred Pagac Jr.	3	3	6	—	—
Tyler Everett	3	2	5	—	—
Simon Fraser	3	2	5	—	—
Mike Kudla	1	3	4	1-2	—
Chris Conwell	3	—	3	—	—
Nate Salley	2	1	3	—	—
Bam Childress	2	—	2	—	—
Harlen Jacobs	2	—	2	—	—
Mike D'Andrea	1	1	2	—	—
Jason Bond	1	1	2	—	—
Marcus Green	1	1	2	—	—
OSU Totals	164	74	238	23-68	11-49
OPP Totals	140	48	188	19-65	7-37

Fumbles Forced

None.

Fumbles Recovered

None.

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TIME AND CHANGE

Griffin's Breakout Game Was 30 Years Ago

EDITOR'S NOTE — BSB is delighted to welcome Dick Fenlon, the longtime sports columnist for The Columbus Dispatch, as a regular contributor. Fenlon will periodically provide articles, including this first installment on the 30-year anniversary of Archie Griffin's breakout game against North Carolina in 1972.

We have numbers. We have lots of numbers. Start with one somewhere in the middle. Start with 239. Then go backward and forward through just a few of the remainder.

From one (the fumble) to two (Heisman Trophies) to four (number of varsity seasons) to six (number of other football-playing brothers) to 11 (number of 100-yard games in a single season) to 33 (number of consecutive 100-yard games), thus and so all the way up, up, up to 5,589 (total yards gained in four remarkable Ohio State football seasons).

Yes, start with 239. But remember: With Archie Griffin, numbers tell you much, but they tell you a whole lot less than everything.

He's sitting there now in his office in Room 225 of St. John Arena — an upgrade to 239 would certainly seem appropriate, given the circumstances — speaking of the relation of numbers (weight and height in this case) to ability.

"You'll never get me to say that it makes that much difference," he's saying. "They open the holes this way (spreading wide his arms) not that way" (arms aloft, touchdown indicator).

"When you're 5-8 (and 180 pounds fudging) you tell yourself that's all you've got to go with, and you do the best you can with what you've got, and that's what I would recommend to all those kids out there now."

Take it from the heart. And keep in mind, his heart was always one thing that was pretty much immeasurable. Maybe that's why — 30 years after his memorable coming-out party on Sept. 30, 1972 — the Little Big Man casts a larger shadow over Ohio State football than even those two unmatched Heismans would indicate.

"You may never ever do anything like that again," Woody Hayes warned him at the squad meeting two days after he had run for a then-OSU record of 239 yards in 27 carries against North Carolina in Ohio Stadium.

Well, forget about that. Starting a week later, with his first start in his third game of his freshman season, he did it

TIME AND CHANGE

with
Dick Fenlon

football-weekly. Oh, not to that magnitude — his best was 246 yards gained against Iowa the next season — but in regular 100-yards-and-up chunks.

So now, on a day three decades later in which his oldest son, Andre, is about to graduate from Ohio State, he's sitting there in Room 225 weighing career thrills — high school, college and NFL.

"It's my most exciting moment in football," he's saying of the one that came just 40 days after he turned 18. "I look at that as my springboard. You come to college and all of a sudden you're playing before 86,000 people. It was the first year freshmen were eligible.

"I counted it as a miracle. The night before, I prayed I'd get the opportunity. I really didn't know if I'd get another chance after what happened the first game."

The first game was his own little nightmare. Getting in at tailback in the opening-game victory over Iowa two Saturdays before, the hometown Eastmoor High School graduate who is now assistant athletic director for Ohio State lined up for a pitch right from quarterback Dave Purdy.

The hole, he said later, stretched from here to the horizon, and he failed to look the ball into his hands. The fumble was apparently charged to Purdy, but Griffin takes the rap.

"The old saying is, if you get your hands on it you ought to catch it," Griffin said.

He didn't, of course, and he knew that in football blame begets consequences and that a fumbler earned the cone-shaped hat in Professor Hayes' classroom.

That's why, apparently, the bobblehead was figuratively sitting in the corner the next practice.

"I was way down the line," Griffin said. "We had Morris Bradshaw, Elmer Lippert, Rich Gales, Joe DeFilippo. I was the next one. The only place I was listed was on the freshman team."

In fact, Griffin had just attended his first college class three days before the UNC game. The night before, he wasn't even with the team. After all, that privi-



COURTESY: BROCKWAY SPORTS PHOTOS

BREAKOUT GAME — On Sept. 30, 1972, Ohio State freshman Archie Griffin first made a name for himself by rushing for 239 yards against North Carolina. Pictured, from right, are Griffin (45), fullback Randall Keith (4), quarterback Greg Hare (18), linemen James Kregel (63), Doug France (77) and Charles Bonica (58), and tight end Fred Pagac (80).

lege was reserved for guys who were certain to play the next day.

"I honestly didn't think I was going to play," Griffin said. "I didn't even go to the hotel with the team the night before the game."

Yet, after just two three-and-outs series against North Carolina, there was Hayes, encouraged by backfield coach Rudy Hubbard, shoving Griffin onto the playing field against the Tar Heels.

He gained 6 yards on each of his first three carries. He gained 56 yards in seven carries on the next Ohio State possession. There were runs of 22, 32 and 55 yards. As the game — a 29-14 OSU victory — wore on, his stature grew.

Afterward, Hayes, always reluctant to put a player — especially a freshman, of all people — on a pedestal, had a few nice things to say about his latest find.

"Archie spoke for himself," Hayes told reporters. "What makes a kid good, I don't know. He has power and speed, a definite sense of timing."

"He's strong ... At 184 pounds, he's not skinny. He is built like a man ... He has that natural knack to make the big play."

Of course, Griffin didn't do it all by himself. On that 1972 team, he had an All-American tackle named John Hicks and a bruising fullback named Champ Henson working in front of him.

But at the end of four seasons and all those yards and all of those wins and those four Rose Bowls and those two Heismans, Griffin was — what? — 7 feet tall?

At least. "I played on some great teams," Griffin said. "I guess I was just in the right place at the right time with the right people."

Yes, his single-game records have fallen, first at the hands of Keith Byars in 1984 and then Eddie George in 1995. And, yes, there is a certain true freshman on the current OSU team who is making headlines already.

But Archie Griffin did it all first.

A question: When did he finally get his feet on the ground that day 30 years ago?

"Really, I was in a daze the whole time," he says now. "I don't think people believe that, but I'm serious. I don't think my feet were ever on the ground."

"My goal when I came here to school was simply to be on the varsity. I still think the best way to approach it when you're a freshman is by not expecting to play."

Old school, perhaps. At any rate, that's where he remains, though the room number could yet be an honorary 239.

Archie's (First) Big Day

Sept. 30, 1972 Ohio Stadium; Columbus, Ohio						
Score by Quarters	1	2	3	4		F
NORTH CAROLINA	7	0	0	7		14
OHIO STATE	3	6	14	6		29

First Quarter

UNC — Bethea 37 pass from Vidnovic (Alexander kick)

OSU — Conway 22 field goal

Second Quarter

OSU — Hare 17 run (kick failed)

Third Quarter

OSU — Keith 11 run (Conway kick)

OSU — Henson 1 run (Conway kick)

Fourth Quarter

OSU — Griffin 9 run (kick failed)

UNC — Leverenz 7 pass from Vidnovic (Alexander kick)

Att. — 86, 180

Team Statistics

	UNC	OSU
First Downs	11	24
Rushes-Yards	48-174	66-430
Passing Yards	65	96
Passes (Att.-Comp.-Int.)	14-4-2	5-13-1
Total Net Yards	239	526
Punts	4-24.5	9-38.6
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties	5-22	2-10

Individual Statistics

RUSHING (Att.-Net Yds.) — NORTH CAROLINA: Oglesby 14-67; Hite 17-62; Kirkpatrick 4-19; Oliver 5-14; Jerome 1-9; Vidnovic 6-3; Liverenz 1-0. **OHIO STATE:** Griffin 27-239; Lippert 10-116; Keith 8-27; Hare 6-20; Henson 5-16; Bradshaw 4-12; Bledsoe 2-11; Galbos 1-3; Greene 3-(minus 14).

PASSING (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.-TD) — NORTH CAROLINA: Vidnovic 14-4-2-65-2. **OHIO STATE:** Hare 12-5-1-96-0; Greene 1-0-0-0-0.

RECEIVING (Rec.-Yds.) — NORTH CAROLINA: Bethea 1-37; Norton 1-12; Taylor 1-9; Leverenz 1-7. **OHIO STATE:** Galbos 3-72; Griffin 1-17; Bradshaw 1-7.

OSU Freshman 100-Yard Rushing Games

Here is a look at the 15 games in OSU history where a true freshman has rushed for 100 or more yards:

Player	Opponent, Date	Score	Att.	Yds.	TDs
Archie Griffin	North Carolina, Sept. 30, 1972	W, 29-14	27	239	1
Maurice Claret	Washington St., Sept. 14, 2002	W, 25-7	31	230	2
Archie Griffin	Illinois, Oct. 14, 1972	W, 26-7	27	192	0
Maurice Claret	Texas Tech, Aug. 24, 2002	W, 45-21	21	175	3
Robert Smith	Wisconsin, Nov. 17, 1990	W, 35-10	23	171	2
Dean Sensenbaur	Illinois, Nov. 13, 1943	W, 29-26	33	171	2
Dante Lee	Northwestern, Nov. 4, 1989	W, 52-27	24	157	3
Jaymes Bryant	Utah, Sept. 27, 1986	W, 64-6	19	145	1
Jaymes Bryant	Indiana, Oct. 11, 1986	W, 24-22	22	131	0
Jaymes Bryant	Purdue, Oct. 18, 1986	W, 39-11	24	129	0
Robert Smith	Northwestern, Nov. 3, 1990	W, 48-7	23	128	1
Robert Smith	Indiana, Oct. 13, 1990	T, 27-27	16	127	0
Lydell Ross	Indiana, Sept. 29, 2001	W, 27-14	25	124	2
Robert Smith	Minnesota, Oct. 27, 1990	W, 52-23	11	120	1
Robert Smith	Boston College, Sept. 15, 1990	W, 31-10	17	102	0

THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH

As Nightfall Neared, Nerves Were For Naught

I was nervous at halftime. Admit it. So were you.

In the end, I came away extremely impressed with Ohio State's 25-7 victory over highly ranked and highly regarded Washington State.

There is no question that the Buckeyes struggled a bit on both sides of the ball in the first half. It's a game of 60 minutes, though. After not letting the game get out of control during their initial struggles, the Buckeyes simply overpowered the Cougars, a pretty good football team. It is that display of sheer muscle by Ohio State on both sides of the ball that really amazed me.

Even when the Cougars and their Heisman Trophy candidate quarterback Jason Gesser were moving the ball in the first half, the Buckeye defenders were getting their licks in. Those blows surely took their toll as the game wore on. And for all that ball movement — the Cougars had 189 of their 280 yards in the first half — WSU scored only seven points before the intermission.

Once Ohio State's offensive line got into gear in the second half, it was all over for the Cougars. The guys up front helped OSU grind out 240 yards on the ground in the second half after the Buckeyes rushed for only 52 in the first 30 minutes. OSU quarterback Craig Krenzel, who had been sacked four times in the first half, had to take to the air only three times in the second half — with no sacks — and the Buckeyes held the ball for 11:35 of the critical fourth quarter.

For the second time in three contests, freshman running back Maurice Clarett was the star of the game for the Buckeyes. He seemed to get stronger as the game wore on, despite toting the ball 31 times. His performance left him in a better mood than he had been in the week before, when he got the call only 12 times and also fumbled.

Krenzel, who had entered the game with an amazing 82.1 completion percentage, was just 4 of 10 passing for 71 yards against WSU. However, he did not throw an interception. In fact, the Buckeyes were not charged with a turnover all day. One couldn't help but think that this was the type of game in which Krenzel's predecessor, Steve Bellisari, might have tried to force something.

True, Krenzel was sacked four times in the first half, as mentioned. Sometimes, though, it's better to eat the ball and turn things over to your punter than risk giving up the ball and perhaps swinging momentum with an interception.

One thing Krenzel does not appear to do is force things. With Clarett and his able backups and a bevy of talented receivers, if the junior quarterback keeps his cool and the offensive line continues to dominate, the Buckeyes are going to score their share of points and win their share of ball games.

I not only found myself comparing current and past quarterbacks during this game, but I found myself comparing coaching regimes. Wasn't it gratifying to see an Ohio State team go in at halftime and make both the mental and physical adjustments necessary to win a big ball game?

And it was particularly satisfying to see a Buckeye team getting stronger and wearing down a quality opponent in the third and fourth quarters, rather than running out of gas when the game was on the line.

THE VIEW FROM 15TH AND HIGH
Frank Moskowitz, Publisher

"It was obvious in the fourth quarter of the football game that we were the ones that had a little bit of juice left," OSU coach Jim Tressel said.

Kick-Starting The Bucks

Kicker Mike Nugent was the subject of much discussion following Ohio State's first two games this season, all positive. Nugent, who struggled badly last year, had hit all four of his field-goal attempts, three from beyond the 40.

But those field goals were just confidence builders. They didn't have much of an impact on games that the Buckeyes won 45-21 and 51-17.

That confidence building came in handy against Washington State, as Nugent hit on three more field goals, all from beyond the 40. This time, however, the field goals meant something. No, a Nugent kick didn't win the game as time expired, but his nine points were important, nonetheless.

The field goals gave the Buckeyes points when they were still struggling to find their way against the Cougars. If Ohio State had come up empty-handed on any of Nugent's three attempts, momentum in the game — and the outcome — might have been completely different, especially if he hadn't connected on his pair in the first half. He was the key offensive weapon until the Buckeyes started grinding it out on the ground in the second half.

Nugent, who has been virtually flawless on everything he has done this season, did prove he was human against WSU. One of his kickoffs went out of bounds, setting the Cougars up on their 35. On the first play from scrimmage, however, Gesser was picked off by Buckeye linebacker Matt Wilhelm, so there was no harm done.

Quick Kicks

• One of the things I like about Clarett is his knack for getting extra yards after the initial hit. Sometimes he bounces off a defender, sometimes he just breaks a tackle or two.

Former OSU coach Earle Bruce mentioned on WTVN radio after the game that he thought Washington State's tackling of Clarett was often sloppy. Who am I to question the coach, but I wonder how much of that was sloppy tackling by the Cougars and how much of it was great first, second and third effort by Clarett.

In this day of offensive sophistication, watch how often Clarett throws a good, old-fashioned stiff arm. It may not be the spread offense, but it still works.

• One has to wonder if Tressel, running backs coach Tim Spencer and the rest of the Buckeye offensive brain trust are going to rethink the strategy that seemed to be in place during the first two games of trying to keep all running backs happy and just go with Clarett as the featured back. The freshman proved he can handle the bulk of the carries and his 7.3-yard per rush average after three games is a statistic that usually adds up to victory.

However, don't underestimate the abilities of Maurice Hall or Lydell Ross. They are both very capable backs who could probably put up solid numbers if given the

carries, as well. Ross had a key 36-yard run against the Cougars and while he picked up only 1 yard in four carries against WSU, Hall's best play of the game came when he beautifully executed his end of a fake handoff to help spring Krenzel on a 29-yard run.

• A player who has been solid so far but has yet to dominate a game is defensive lineman Tim Anderson. Anderson was credited with a pass deflection but no tackles against WSU. He had entered the game second on the team to Wilhelm with 10 stops.

Anderson was one of the team's most pleasant surprises last season and one of the Buckeyes' most solid performers on defense. Look for him to have a breakout game soon.

• I'm always a little leery when ABC's Brent Musberger is in the booth for a Buckeye game. It seems like he has been present for some of Ohio State's more embarrassing defeats — most notably the crushing 1998 loss to Michigan State.

If he hops on the other team's bandwagon, he can be insufferable. With the Bucks trailing 7-6 at halftime, the thought crossed my mind that this would be another one of those disappointments for Musberger to preside over.

Instead, Ohio State scored the impressive victory and now we will probably have the other Musberger problem. He tends to lock in on a specific player and tout that player to the max. The last Buckeye he had a thing for was the "Big Kat," Andy Katzenmoyer. I have to figure that the veteran broadcaster is going to push Clarett to the point of obnoxiousness the next time he does a Buckeye game.

At least Clarett is one of ours.

A Buckeye Slugger

In my over 21 years of publishing BSB, I have seen a lot of Buckeye paraphernalia. The scarlet and gray coffins and toilet seats are old hat to me by now. So I take notice when I come across a unique Ohio State gift.

The OSU alumni club of Louisville is offering genuine Louisville Slugger bats engraved with the Ohio State University Alumni Association Block O. The bats, the same used by professional baseball players, can be personalized with up to four lines.

The cost of this personalized Ohio State Louisville Slugger is \$55, plus \$7 shipping and handling, and the sale benefits the Louisville club's OSU scholarship fund. Bat display hangers also are available. Make checks payable to the Alumni Club

of Louisville and mail to 109 Karatwood Court, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701-5536, or call (502) 364-6768 for information.

Welcome, Dick

I wanted to welcome longtime Columbus Dispatch columnist Dick Fenlon to the BSB family. I have been a big fan of Fenlon's through the years and I believe his unique perspective will be a solid addition to our editorial presentation.

In this issue, Fenlon checks in with his take on Archie Griffin's breakout game against North Carolina 30 years ago. That game seems to take on additional significance with the emergence of Clarett.

Watch for more from Fenlon in upcoming issues of BSB.

Remembering Johnny U.

This note is about me and sports in general, rather than Ohio State athletics. I was looking through a box of things from my childhood that my mother had recently sent me, and among the report cards ("Frank needs to work on his penmanship") and pictures was a copy of the school newspaper from Washington Elementary School in Royal Oak, Mich., dated October of 1961.

The newspaper (if you can call several mimeographed sheets a newspaper) contains the first known sports story written by your humble publisher. Some 40 years later, I have to say it was surprisingly good for a 9-year-old. I'm after the writers here all the time to shorten their stories and I was impressed that I recapped a Detroit Lions' 16-15 victory over the Baltimore Colts in one paragraph, still managing to hit the high points.

Even this 9-year-old reporter referred to the Baltimore quarterback as "the great Johnny Unitas," whom the Lions held to just one touchdown pass that afternoon. Unitas was one of the giants of sports in his day and, really, of all time. In fact, sports has lost two of its biggest figures in the past few months with the loss of Unitas and baseball's Ted Williams.

The Baltimore of the days of old Memorial Stadium was much more of a blue-collar town than the Baltimore of Camden Yards, and Unitas was the blue-collar quarterback who truly embodied that city. His Colts teams were among the best in NFL history and may not get their complete due because their run coincided with much of the best years of the legendary Green Bay Packers of Vince Lombardi.

Because this is Buckeye Sports Bulletin, I'll make an Ohio State connection. Most of those really great Unitas-led Colts teams featured former Buckeyes Jim Parker, Bob Vogel and Tom Matte. In the years that those three were all on the same team as Unitas (1963-67), the Colts posted a 50-17-3 (.736) record.

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